

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated September 22, 2006.

Preliminarily, applicant believes that the present claims correctly carry forward all of the prior amendments and revisions. If this is not so, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney, preferably by telephone, to address this formal matter.

From the substantive perspective, the Examiner points out in paragraph 6 of the Office Action, that certain amendments to the claims will cause them to distinguish over the prior art. Specifically, the Examiner has recommended that the claims recite that a "single" inner gas discharge port is arranged eccentrically to the center, and has further recommended that the outer gas discharge port be recited as being configured to "continuously and annularly" enclose said single inner gas discharge port. These amendments have been introduced and all of the claims contain those limitations.

Accordingly, it is believed and respectfully submitted that all of the claims of record present subject matter that is neither taught or suggested in the prior art, as acknowledged by the Examiner.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
EFS FILING SYSTEM
ON DECEMBER 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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